

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., today said, "The self-proclaimed man of virtues, Dr. William Bennett, said that his statement - 'if you wanted to reduce crime...if that were your sole purpose, you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down' - was just a theoretical and philosophical statement designed to be provocative. He followed his own provocative statement by saying that such an option was morally repugnant. But he said the subject of race and crime should not be off the table for discussion.

"But I wonder why Dr. Bennett didn't offer another kind of philosophical and provocative statement that was not morally repugnant, and would also have dealt with the issue of race and crime. Why didn't he say, 'if you really want to reduce crime in the Black community, if that is your real purpose, why shouldn't we provide job training, decent paying jobs, a good education, high quality health care and affordable housing to Black America - indeed to all Americans? Under those economic conditions, wouldn't the crime rate in all of America's communities go down?'

"Why did Dr. Bennett associate only Blacks and crime instead of associating crime with the lack of job opportunities, education, health care and affordable housing? I'm just asking Dr. Bennett a philosophical and provocative question," Jackson concluded.